

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (CANCEL)

4. (WITHDRAWN-CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for detection of *Yersinia pestis* in a sample comprising:

(i) providing a sample;

(ii) using a PCR assay to detect the ~~composition set of polynucleotides of~~ claim 8 in the sample, wherein the detection of SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8 in the sample indicates the presence of *Yersinia pestis* in the sample.

5. (WITHDRAWN): The method of Claim 4 wherein said PCR comprises standard PCR.

6. (WITHDRAWN): The method of Claim 5, wherein said PCR comprises fluorogenic 5' nuclease PCR assay.

7. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 4, wherein said assay is performed using a first forward primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, a first reverse primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, and a first hybridization probe consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 for detection of SEQ ID NO:4 and using a second forward primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, a second reverse primer consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, and a second hybridization probe consisting of SEQ ID NO:7 for detection of SEQ ID NO:8. ;and detecting the presence of SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8 by flurogenic 5' nuclease PCR assay, wherein the presence of SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:8 indicates the presence of *Yersinia pestis* in the sample.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~composition set of polynucleotides~~ comprising a first isolated polynucleotide and a second isolated polynucleotide, wherein the first isolated polynucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO:4 or a ~~full-length~~ complement thereof and the second ~~isolated~~ polynucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO:8 or a ~~full-length~~ complement thereof.

9. (WITHDRAWN-CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composition set of~~ polynucleotides of claim 8, comprising at least one further isolated polynucleotide consisting of a

nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 12, 16, 20, and 24 or a ~~full-length~~ complement thereof.

10. (WITHDRAWN-CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composition set of~~ polynucleotides of claim 9, comprising six isolated polynucleotides each consisting of one of SEQ ID NOS: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 or ~~full-length~~ complements thereof.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A set of oligonucleotides comprising (a) a polynucleotide fragment of each of the isolated polynucleotides of the ~~composition set of~~ polynucleotides of claim 8, wherein said fragments are 19 to 33 nucleotides in length, or (b) ~~full-length~~ complements of (a).

12. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The set of oligonucleotides of claim 11, wherein said set consists of forward primers and reverse primers and hybridization probes.

13. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The set of oligonucleotides of claim 11, wherein each oligonucleotide consists of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

14. (WITHDRAWN-CURRENTLY AMENDED) A set of oligonucleotides comprising (a) a polynucleotide fragment of each of the isolated polynucleotides of the ~~composition set of~~ polynucleotides of claim 10, wherein said fragments are 19 to 33 nucleotides in length, or (b) ~~full-length~~ complements of (a).

15. (WITHDRAWN) The set of oligonucleotides of claim 14, wherein each oligonucleotide consists of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 23.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CANCELED)